

**Eulogy by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo at the memorial service of Intermediate Life Support medic, Mrs Ntombikayise Mildred Dlamini at Ixopo**

**1 October 2015**

Mndeni wakwa Dlamini

In our attempts to comfort you – we will borrow from one of America's earlier Presidents; **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, who wrote about the pain you are currently experiencing, saying:

*'In this sad world of ours; sorrow comes to all, and to the young it comes with bittered agony because it takes them unawares. The older have learned to expect it.'*

We are all here today to share with you the pain of losing a wife; a daughter and a mother.

In comparison; your pain maybe greater, but we are feeling the same as we have lost a colleague who was very committed as demonstrated by her track record in our Department.

**Ntombikayise Mildred Dlamini** started showing interest on saving lives when she was just 20 years and odd months old.

She **volunteered her services free of charge for full 15 months** before she was formally employed as a **Basic Life Support** paramedic on 22 November 2005.

Her love and commitment to her chosen career of saving lives became very clear to all in 2012 when she graduated as the **Intermediate Life Support** practitioner.

To be a candidate for **Intermediate Life Support (ILS) certificate**, you must have a minimum of 1,000 hours of practical experience as a Basic Life Support medic and above that you must pass an entrance exam to be eligible for the course. Training at this level consists of a 470-hour course, consisting of 240 hours of lectures and practical simulations, as well as 230 hours of experiential learning.

**Ntombikayise Mildred Dlamini** was that qualified. She was well equipped to deal with almost all life threatening emergencies. She was qualified to practice various invasive techniques such as [IV](#) therapy; needle [Cricothyroidotomy](#) and needle [Thoracocentesis](#), as well as [Electrocardiogram](#) interpretation, manual external [defibrillation](#). As an **Intermediate Life Support medic**, she could also administer various drugs. She did all this in order to prevent fatalities and also to ensure that patients are taken to the health facility in a stable condition.

In our workforce, we only had **873 Intermediate Life Support** medics; now they are **872!!**

In true form, she perished like a soldier in the line of duty.

We now know that in the small hours of Thursday morning, Sept 24, she and her colleague, Simphiwe Wiseman Shelembe were dispatched from Ixopo base to Mahehle Location in Ixopo to attend to a child that was suffering with diarrhoea.

We also know that approximately at 02h38 whilst traveling with Merc sprinter Ambulance, 15 kilometres outside Ixopo the tragedy struck.

The driver of an oncoming truck lost control of his vehicle and drove straight into the Ambulance. This accident could not be avoided as the road edges had guard rails up on it.

**Ntombikayise Mildred Dlamini** did not stand a chance as the truck smashed straight into the driver's side of the ambulance, entrapping her.

She passed away on the spot.

To the co-worker Mr Shelembe who was in this accident. I know that you were appointed on the 1/07/2015. You might have been scared by what you saw and you may be reconsidering working with EMS. Please hold steadfast and do accept your escape from death as an opportunity from God to do greater things on earth.

We have all lost.

We say **dudu** to her husband who is a colleague as well.

We are saying **dudu** to her 3 young children aged 7 years; 3 years and 8 months old.

Akwehlanga lungehlanga

May her beautiful soul rests in eternal peace.

**Mrs Dlamini will be buried on Saturday at Carris Brook Location at 09h00, near Ixopo.**

*(Mr Shelembe is not married and has two children. After the accident he was examined and declared fine to go home by Dr Nsele. He is*

*currently off sick and will be returning to work on 3 October or may get a further extension as he is still getting medical assistance due to various complaints after the accident.) he attended the memorial service of his co-worker, despite still being in pain and walking with a limp.*

For more information please contact Mr Desmond Motha

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